

MEMORANDUM

2018

Transfusion Reaction Algorithm- Effective October 2018

Date: October 18th 2018

To: Nursing Educators/ Blood Banks

From:

Darcy Heron, Transfusion Medicine, Technical Director; Shared Health Diagnostic Services

Shana Chiborak, Nurse Coordinator Blood Management Services

Subject: **Revision of the Transfusion Reaction Algorithm**

Shared Health Diagnostic Services, Canadian Blood Services and Blood Management Service have finalized a revised Transfusion Reaction Algorithm for the Province of Manitoba. The official “go live” date for this document will be on October 18th 2018.

This package includes laminated copies of the revised algorithm, as well as a summary of the changes that have been made.

Educational Resources are available for health care providers on the Best Blood Manitoba website: www.bestbloodmanitoba.ca. Here you will find a PowerPoint presentation that can be used by site educators as well as learning resources you may find helpful.

Highlights of the revisions include:

- “Stop the transfusion” Step 4 has changed. “Contact MD/designate for medical assessment and decision to report as a transfusion reaction.

Reason for change: Physicians/authorized care providers must make the decision as to whether the patient is having a transfusion reaction or not.

These individuals need to order an investigation if they diagnose the patient as having a suspected transfusion reaction.

- “Stop the transfusion” Step 5 has changed. The MD/designate needs to be contacted for assessment and if a diagnosis of a possible transfusion reaction is made then direction to proceed with the algorithm is resumed. If the physician determines that the symptoms that the patient is exhibiting are not related to the transfusion then the transfusion is to proceed as ordered.

Reason for change: This gives the physician the autonomy to diagnose if a transfusion reaction is suspected or if patients pre-existing diagnosis is contributing to these symptoms.

- Minor Symptoms has a defined guideline surrounding temperature.
- The “Stop Do Not Continue Transfusion” box has reduced dialogue on the front which has now been expanded to the back of the algorithm
- If the blood or blood product is to be returned to the Blood Bank for bacterial culture then the tubing must remain attached. Adopt the 3 C method, Clip, Clamp and Cap the tubing. The transfusion practitioner will no longer remove the tubing at the bedside.
- The back of the algorithm has major transfusion reaction signs and symptoms and recommended actions grouped together so it is easier to follow.
- Images of the blood culture vials have been added in a “Sample Reference Guide” for adult and pediatric patient populations.
- If a patient is suspected of having TRALI (Transfusion Related Acute Lung Injury) the link for the Canadian Blood Services reporting documents that must be filled in by the physician has been included. This will also be accessible on the BBM website.

MEMORANDUM

2018

The current Transfusion Reaction Algorithm dated Version 2(2016 11 02) should be removed and replaced with Revised “Version 3(Oct 2018) prior to the go live date of October 18th 2018. The Manitoba Transfusion Best Practice Resource Manual will be updated with the next manual revision which should be complete in 2019.

If your unit has the “Transfusion Reaction Action” lanyards please discard these. If there are any questions please feel free to contact.

Thank you kindly,

Shana Chiborak RN Nurse Coordinator
Blood Management Service

Darcy Heron MSc (Comm Health)
Technical Director, Transfusion Medicine, Diagnostic Service
Shared Health